



Moraga

Public Meetings

City Council

Wednesday, Nov. 8, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, Nov. 6, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, Nov. 13, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Moraga School District
Thursday, Nov. 14, 7 p.m.
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium
1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga
www.moraga.k12.ca.us
See also AUHSD meeting page A2

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

Town of Moraga:

www.moraga.ca.us
Phone: (925) 888-7022

Chamber of Commerce:

www.moragachamber.org

Moraga Citizens' Network:

www.moragacitizensnetwork.org

Moraga Police Report



Summary covers Oct. 10-22

- Alarm Calls 15
- Traffic Stops 33
- 911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 7
- Suspicious Circumstances 8
- Suspicious Subjects 3
- Suspicious Vehicles 3
- Loud Noises 3

Abandoned Vehicle

2000 block Ascot D.r

Barking Dog

400 block Stonefield Pl.

Burglary, auto

500 block Moraga Rd.
10 block Willow Spring Ln. (2)
40 block Miramonte Dr.

Corporal Injury to Spouse

10 block Francisca Dr.

Death, non-criminal

20 block Tai Place

Disturbing the Peace

200 block Paseo Bernal

Domestic Disturbance

Larch/Camino Pablo

DUI

Rheem Valley Shopping Center

Excessive Speed

Larch/Canyon Rd.
Corliss/Moraga Rd.
Moraga Commons Park (2)
Rheem/Stuart

Fire/EMS Response

Moraga Way/Glorietta Blvd.
900 block Camino Ricardo

Fraud

reported to police

Mentally Ill Commit

1700 block Spyglass Ln.
Campolindo High School
70 block Corliss Dr.

Missing Adult

500 block Augusta Dr.

Phone Harass

1000 block Larch

Promiscuous Shooting

Camino Pablo/Larch

Reckless Driving

70 block Sanders Ranch Rd.

Shoplift

500 block Moraga Rd.

Stolen Vehicle Recovery

Draeger/Devin

Theft, petty

Campolindo High School
40 block Warfield Dr.
CVS

Vehicle Theft

Saint Mary's College
1300 block Camino Peral

Vandalism

Campolindo High School
Moraga Country Club

Verbal Dispute

location n/a

Violation Restraining Order

reported to police

Warrant Service

Sears, Antioch

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Commercial Planned Development zoning now available in Moraga

By Sophie Braccini

It just took a few months for staff, advisory groups, and the town council to agree on a new commercial set of rules that should make upgrading and redeveloping Moraga's shopping areas an easier and more predictable process. A few disagreements on permitted uses split the council members opinions on Oct. 15, but it did not stop the approval of the new zoning tool.

For years commercial property owners and business owners have complained of Moraga's very lengthy, costly and intricate process to make any change to a retail space in Moraga. It finally took Jay Kerner of U.S. Partners Realty, and his desire to improve his newly acquired portion of the Rheem Shopping Center to galvanize the energies that led to the approval of the creation of a new category in the municipal code: the planned development commercial – PD-C.

A PD-C is like creating a blueprint for what an area of commercial property will look like. The property owner typically will make such an application. Once approved, the new PD-C will allow for changes within its boundaries with a simple administrative process to make sure that the change matches the blueprint.

Up until now, any change to a retail space would require a complete process with the necessity to meet a series of regulatory standards, or findings. The process was subjected to review by the Design Review Board, which meets once a month. Many business owners have found this process long and costly, with unpredictable results, the worst deterrent for anyone wanting to start a business in Moraga.

approved may be a bit of a steep climb: the findings will have to be met at that level and it will have to be approved by the town council. But once approved, new businesses will have a list of criteria to follow to get an easy approval.

The new regulation lists what commercial use can be included in a PD-C and which ones should be excluded. Tobacco was first taken out, but the planning commission had agreed that a cigar lounge would be acceptable, a use that Kerner was said to be interested in considering for the Rheem Center. The council members debated the issue, some wanting to protect public health, while others said that it was not their prerogative to dictate what people should or should not do. The final decision was to ban all tobacco-related use. Firearms commerce was simi-

larly discussed by the council members. They decided that the topic would be better addressed when the town studies firearms ordinances later this year. A PD-C has to abide by all the town's rules, including those on firearms, if any is approved.

The PD-C regulation allows for space to be added – up to 15 percent of the total area – or demolished to accommodate a new business. The council members agreed to include regulations to protect the inside and outside of buildings with historic significance.

The minimum size of a PD-C is two acres, but smaller contiguous areas can be included in an existing PD-C at a later time. The mechanism applies only to commercial zones of the town, not the residential areas.

Moraga School District transforms an incident into a learning opportunity

By Sophie Braccini

When a couple of students a few weeks ago drew a swastika at lunchtime, which was discovered and erased within five minutes, on Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School grounds, principal Joan Danilson reported the incident to Moraga School District's Superintendent Bruce Burns, who, as soon as the facts were ascertained, sent a note to all MSD parents. The district balanced the risk of creating unease and negative publicity with the need of transparency and recognizing that there was an opportunity to improve the education provided to the students.

The school board met on Oct. 13, and at public request, adopted a resolution, not limited to the incident. One of the statements affirms the absolute necessity of a school-based ethos rooted in respect of differences. It also condemns the display of hate symbols as inconsistent with the district's values.

JMIS immediately turned the challenge into an opportunity for learning and all the students participated during first period in an activity about the meaning of symbols. After being given several examples and thinking about meaning, the students engaged in creating their own symbols, by themselves or in a group.

The drawings are now displayed in the school's library. Danilson commented that she was impressed by the insightfulness of the students. The symbols vary in size and intricacy and mostly focus on equality, fighting hatred, and respect of differences, but also solidarity with regions that have been hit by natural disasters.

At the Oct. 16 Cultural Proficiency Committee meeting, which was created by Burns in January, the superintendent recounted the swastika incident and added that what happened led to the district seeking to better itself and look at best practices across the nation. He noted that, so far, Alaska seems to be leading in the area of cultural awareness. He invited representatives of the No-Place-For-Hate school program to make a presentation to the approximately 30 parents and teachers at the meeting.

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Parents and teachers gather at the Oct. 16 Moraga School District Cultural Proficiency Committee meeting. Photo Sophie Braccini

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